

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
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AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 STR-07 TRSE-00  
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 IO-13 DOE-15 SOE-02 OES-07  
INT-05 NRC-05 ACDA-12 CEQ-01 NEA-11 /167 W  
-----060800 101704Z /42

R 101414Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1286  
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX  
AMCONSUL LYON  
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE  
AMCONSUL NICE  
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 PARIS 14898

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PERP, FR  
SUBJECT: GISCARD'S GAMEPLAN OVERVIEW

SUMMARY. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ELYSEE, YEVE CANNAC, GAVE US LAST WEEK ONE OF THE MORE COMPREHENSIVE OUTLINES WE HAVE HEARD OF WHAT THE PRESIDENT HOPES TO ACCOMPLISH DURING HIS TERM(S) OF OFFICE. CANNAC'S VERSION REFINED CERTAIN ASPECTS OF GISCARD'S GAMEPLAN (AS ALREADY PRESENTED IN HIS BOOK DEMOCRATIE FRANCAISE AND SUBSEQUENT SPEECHES), ADDED A FEW NEW TWISTS AND GAVE IT A CERTAIN ACTUALITY WITH REFERENCE TO PRESENT AND FUTURE ISSUES FACING THE COUNTRY. CENTRAL  
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TO THE ELYSEE PERSPECTIVE IS THAT, NOW WITH THE MAJOR POLITICAL PREOCCUPATION OF A LEFT VICTORY IN MARCH SWEEP AWAY FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF YEARS, THE COUNTRY, GOVERNMENT AND MAJOR SOCIAL SECTORS CAN FINALLY TURN TO THE SERIOUS QUESTIONS OF THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSFORMATION OF FRANCE. THE MOST CRUCIAL PROBLEMS, CANNAC SAID, ARE ECONOMIC, WHERE THE GOF IS

CONSTRAINED BY BOTH INTERNATIONAL FACTORS (ENERGY, MONETARY) AND DOMESTIC LIMITATIONS TO EXPANSION. REGARDLESS OF THE CONSTRAINTS, THE PRESIDENT IS INTENT ON CONTINUING HIS THREE-PRONGED POLICY OF REDRESSING THE ECONOMY, REDUCING SOCIAL INEQUITIES AND DECENTRALIZING BOTH FINANCE AND THE ADMINISTRATION IN GENERAL.

WHILE TIME IS ALWAYS SHORT, CANNAC BELIEVES THAT VGE, SINCE HE APPEARS TO BE THE STRONGEST CANDIDATE IN 1981 FOR ANOTHER SEVEN-YEAR TERM, CAN AFFORD TO PACE HIS PROGRAMS OVER A LONGISH PERIOD. THIS TIME FRAME WILL ALSO PERMIT GISCARD TO TAKE A LEADING ROLE IN THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS AND POLICIES, WHERE CANNAC SEES A "CERTAIN DISTANCING" FROM THE US. DOMESTICALLY, GISCARD'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE OPPOSITION WILL BE OPEN, GRADUAL AND STEADY -- AVOIDING DRAMATIC INITIATIVES SUCH AS PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WHICH COULD PROVOKE A CRISIS WITH THE RPR. WE CONCLUDE FROM CANNAC'S DISCUSSION THAT GISCARD'S POLICY OF "OPENING" IS DESIGNED NOT TO MAKE THE PS OR MRG JOIN THE MAJORITY SOON (IN FACT, CANNAC SAID HE HOPED THE MRG WOULD STAY IN THE OPPOSITION) BUT TO CREATE A "LOYAL OPPOSITION", TO ELICIT SUPPORT FROM THE LEFT IN A NUMBER OF GISCARDIAN PROGRAMS AND TO LET THE PS DECIDE IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME (NOT BEFORE 1981) TO MOVE TOWARD THE CENTER. END SUMMARY.

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NOTE: CANNAC, AT 43, HAS BEEN THE NUMBER TWO GENERALIST AT THE ELYSEE SINCE GISCARD WON THE PRESIDENCY IN 1974, FIRST UNDER PIERRE-BROSSOLETTE AND NOW UNDER JEAN FRANCOIS-PONCET. HE IS CONSIDERED ONE OF GISCARD'S CLOSEST CONFIDANTS AND SUPPOSEDLY WAS THE MAIN COORDINATOR/DRAFTER FOR GISCARD'S BOOK, DEMOCRATIE FRANCAISE.

1. GISCARD'S PRESENT POLITICAL POSITION: AT LUNCH WITH THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR AND EMBOFF, CANNAC PARAPHRASED GEORGES SUFFERT OF LE POINT AND OTHERS WHO HAVE OBSERVED THAT THE MARCH ELECTIONS MARKED A HISTORIC TURNING POINT, WHEN FRANCE WENT UP TO THE BRINK BUT TURNED BACK JUST IN TIME. MARXISM HAVING REACHED ITS APOGEE IN 1977-1978, ALL PARTIES BRANDED WITH ITS MARK (THE PS AS WELL AS THE PCF) ARE NOW DISCREDITED. GISCARD, WHOM CANNAC SAID REMAINED OPTIMISTIC THROUGHOUT THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD, HAS BEEN THE IMMEDIATE BENEFICIARY OF THE MARCH RESULTS; BUT GISCARD REALIZES THAT HE CANNOT REST ON THESE LAURELS FOR LONG. CANNAC ADMITTED THAT A 20-YEAR REGIME (SUCH AS NOW EXISTS) IS PRACTICALLY UNPRECEDENTED IN MODERN FRANCE; GISCARD IS THEREFORE WORKING STEADILY TO-

WARD A RENEWAL OF THE POLITICAL CENTER, SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH EXISTED IN THE EARLY DAYS OF RADICALISM AFTER THE TURN OF THE CENTURY. THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF THE UDF, AFTER BEING HASTILY SLAPPED TOGETHER IN JANUARY,

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LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 IO-13 DOE-15 SOE-02 OES-07  
INT-05 NRC-05 ACDA-12 CEQ-01 NEA-11 /167 W  
-----060915 101705Z /42

R 101414Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1287  
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX  
AMCONSUL LYON  
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE  
AMCONSUL NICE  
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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HAS SURPRISED GISCARDIANS AND SURPASSED THEIR HIGHEST EXPECTATIONS -- TO THE POINT WHERE ON MANY ISSUES THIS GROUPING IS NOW CONSIDERED ALMOST ON EQUAL FOOTING WITH THE THREE OTHER MAIN PARTIES IN FRANCE.

2. FOR GISCARD'S SCHEME TO MATERIALIZE, TWO CONDITIONS MUST BE MET: A CHANGE IN THE PS WITH ITS NON-MARXIST SEGMENTS MOVING TOWARD THE CENTER AND A REALIGNMENT OF THE POLITICAL RIGHT WITHOUT WHICH THE PS CANNOT EVOLVE. BUT, CANNAC WARNED, GISCARD IS NOT FOOLISH ENOUGH TO RISK HIS PRESENT MAJORITY WITH HIS RPR PARTNERS FOR A LESS THAN SURE THING ON THE LEFT. FOR THIS REASON AND

BECAUSE THE EVOLUTION OF THE LEFT WILL PROBABLY BE VERY  
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SLOW, GISCARD IS PLAYING HIS GAMEPLAN FOR THE LONG HAUL. CANNAC HINTED THAT NO MAJOR CHANGES NEED BE EXPECTED UNTIL AFTER 1981. BEING IN A STRONG POSITION AFTER LAST MONTH'S ELECTIONS AND RIDING ON A POPULARITY WAVE OF ALMOST 60 PERCENT, GISCARD CAN LOOK BEYOND 1981 FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HIS IDEAS. UNLESS GISCARD MAKES SOME UNEXPECTED MISTAKES OR THE ECONOMY DETERIORATES SERIOUSLY, CHIRAC, ACCORDING TO CANNAC, DOESN'T STAND MUCH CHANCE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AND WILL PROBABLY DECIDE NOT TO RUN.

3. THE FUTURE OF THE LEFT: CANNAC BELIEVES THAT THE PS IS DEEPLY TROUBLED SINCE THE MARCH DEFEAT, SPLIT IDEOLOGICALLY AND RIVEN BY A POWER STRUGGLE FOR MITTERRAND'S SUCCESSION. NEW RECRUITING IN THE PS IS WAY DOWN, HE CLAIMED (CONTRARY TO OUR INFORMATION FROM PS SOURCES). WHILE THE NON-MARXISTS HAVE TO TALK A LOYAL GAME NOW, THEY ARE DESPERATELY IN SEARCH OF ANOTHER STRATEGY. FOR THEY KNOW THAT THEY CAN NEVER COME TO POWER WITH THE PCF (SIC). BUT AT SOME POINT, CANNAC PREDICTED, GIVEN THE RIGHT CIRCUMSTANCES, SOME BRAVE ONES MAY BE WILLING TO SPEAK OUT. ONE OCCASION MIGHT BE AFTER 1981, IF MITTERRAND POLLS LESS THAN THE PCF CANDIDATE ON THE FIRST ROUND -- A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY, ACCORDING TO CANNAC. SURVEYING THE PS FIELD, CANNAC FOUND PIERRE MAUROY TOO NARROW AND MICHEL ROCARD TOO NEW TO THE PARTY; HE CALLED JEAN-PIERRE COT A COMER.

4. WHILE THE LEFT REMAINS ON THE DEFENSIVE, GISCARD KEEPS ENTICING IT: FIRST IN THE SERIES OF MEETINGS AFTER THE ELECTIONS WITH MITTERRAND, MARCHAIS AND LABOR LEADERS, THEN BY INVITING THE LEFT FOR CONSULTATIONS ON DISARMAMENT (THE PS ON MAY 11 AND THE PCF ON MAY 12)  
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AND NOW BY CALLING FOR ALL THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FRENCH DELEGATION TO THE SSOD LATER THIS MONTH. ASKED ABOUT THE CHANCES OF PART OF THE MRG DEFECTING TO THE MAJORITY AFTER ITS CONGRESS IN LATE MAY TO ELECT A NEW PRESIDENT, CANNAC SURPRISED US BY ANSWERING THAT HE HOPED THAT ALL THE MRG WOULD REMAIN IN THE OPPOSITION. IF SOME INDIVIDUALS (MRG OR MODERATE PS) CAME OVER TO THE MAJORITY SIDE, FRANCE WOULD REMAIN

AS POLARIZED AS BEFORE. IF THE MODERATES STAYED IN THE OPPOSITION, THERE WOULD BE SOME HOPE OF BUILDING UP A LOYAL OPPOSITION WITH WHICH THE GOF COULD AT LEAST DIALOGUE, OF ACCENTUATING THE DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN THE MARXISTS AND NON-MARXIST OPPOSITION, OF TEMPTING THE PS/MRG TO VOTE FOR A NUMBER OF GOF PROGRAMS AND OF EVENTUALLY SEEING THE PS TRANSFORM ITSELF INTO SOME VARIATION OF A CENTER/LEFT PARTY.

5. THE FUTURE SOCIAL FACE OF FRANCE: MORE IMPORTANT TO GISCARD THAN POLITICAL MANEUVERINGS ARE BASIC ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS, WHICH WILL CREATE THE CONDITIONS OF A LESS BIPOLARIZED SOCIETY AND INCREASE STRAINS WITHIN THE OPPOSITION. CANNANC RETURNED TO FAMILIAR GISCARDIAN THEMES OF REDUCING INEQUALITIES, ESPECIALLY THE SPREAD IN SALARIES AND INCOMES; ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS WHICH WILL BE INTRODUCED IN PARLIAMENT NEXT FALL TO GIVE LOCAL COMMUNITIES GREATER POWER TO RAISE MONEY AND DECIDE THEMSELVES HOW TO SPEND IT; REDUCING GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY; AND PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION IN LARGER CITIES WHICH SHOULD LEAD TO GREATER RESPONSIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION BY MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES AND CITIZENS AND AWAY FROM THE FRENCH TRADITION OF ALWAYS LOOKING TO PARIS FOR ANSWERS. THIS LATTER MEASURE WILL ALLOW ALL SORTS OF POLITICAL COMBINATIONS TO GOVERN AT THE CITY LEVEL. WHERE THE PCF REFUSES TO VOTE AN INCREASED BUDGET TO AVOID TAKING THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIGHER TAXES (OFTEN THE CASE IN LEFT CONTROLLED CITIES), THE RIGHT MIGHT WELL

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FILL THE GAP AND GOVERN WITH THE PS. GIVEN THE NEW PS

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LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 IO-13 DOE-15 SOE-02 OES-07  
INT-05 NRC-05 ACDA-12 CEQ-01 NEA-11 /167 W

-----060993 101705Z /42

R 101414Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1288  
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX  
AMCONSUL LYON  
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE  
AMCONSUL NICE  
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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DESIRE TO DISTANCE ITSELF FROM THE PCF AND PARTICIPATE  
IN DECISIONS IT CONSIDERS INVOLVE THE INTERESTS OF  
FRANCE, PS SUPPORT FOR MAJORITY PROPOSALS IN CITY COUN-  
CILS CANNOT BE EXCLUDED EITHER. CANNAC WOULD NOT VEN-  
TURE THAT THIS INITIATIVE WOULD BE THE FIRST STEP TOWARD  
A NATIONAL PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION. SUCH AN IDEA  
SEEMED TOO FAR DOWN THE ROAD. TOO MANY OTHER, MORE BA-  
SIC SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ARE SCREAMING FOR  
ATTENTION NOW. IN ADDITION, SUCH AN IDEA IF INTRODUCED  
FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WOULD BE SEEN AS A DECLARA-  
TION OF WAR ON THE RPR AND WOULD PROVOKE A GOVERNMENT  
CRISIS. IT IS AN EXAMPLE OF PRECISELY THAT KIND OF NON-  
GRADUALIST APPROACH WHICH GISCARD REJECTS, WHERE HE REA-  
LIZES HE WOULD BE PUSHING BEYOND THE PRESENT LIMITS OF  
THE POLITICAL BALANCE OF FORCES IN THE ASSEMBLY AND  
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WHERE THE RISKS GREATLY OUTWEIGH POTENTIAL BENEFITS.  
(WE HAVE NOTED A DISTINCT COOLING IN THE ELYSEE TOWARD  
PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL -- A  
FACTOR OF THE MAJORITY'S BETTER-THAN-EXPECTED SHORING  
IN MARCH AND OF THE PRESUMPTION THAT THE LEFT MIGHT  
HAVE MORE TO GAIN FROM PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION THAN  
THE RIGHT).

6. THE ECONOMIC CRUCIBLE: CANNAC INSISTED SEVERAL  
TIMES THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT VARIABLE FOR THE NEXT  
COUPLE OF YEARS, IN BOTH ITS INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC  
DIMENSIONS, WILL BE THE HEALTH OF THE ECONOMY. HE WAS  
ESPECIALLY WORRIED OVER THE US ROLE. FOR INSTANCE IN  
ENERGY, CANNAC CONTINUED, IF THE US DOES NOT MANAGE TO  
REDUCE OR CONTROL ITS CONSUMPTION OF OIL, ITS BALANCE OF  
PAYMENTS POSITION COULD WREAK HAVOC IN THE REST OF THE  
WORLD. DOLLARS CANNOT BE RECYCLED FAST ENOUGH FROM THE  
PRODUCING COUNTRIES, NOR DIRECTED TO THE RIGHT COUNTRIES,

TO AVOID FINANCIAL DISEQUILIBRIUM. THE OTHER DANGER, IF THE US ECONOMY PICKS UP AS HE HOPES, IS THAT THE DEMAND FOR OIL WILL INCREASE AND THE PRODUCING COUNTRIES WILL BE TEMPTED TO RAISE PRICES. FIVE YEARS OF ECONOMIES IN OIL CONSUMPTION IN FRANCE AND EFFORTS IN NUCLEAR AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY WOULD THEREBY BE WIPED OUT IN A DASH, CANNAC FEARED. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THE US AND OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES' ECONOMIES CONTINUE TO GROW AT THEIR PRESENT SLOW PACE, THEIR ECONOMIES WILL BE EQUALLY THREATENED BY RISING UNEMPLOYMENT. CANNAC DID NOT PRETEND TO HAVE A MAGIC ANSWER TO FRANCE'S DILEMMA. GIVEN THE CONSTRAINTS, RAYMOND BARRE'S PRESENT POLICY OF HOLDING THE LINE ON INFLATION AND THE INTRODUCTION OF STRUCTURAL REFORMS IN SECTORS IN DIFFICULTY (STEEL, SHIP BUILDINGS, PUBLIC SERVICES, COMPUTERS AND

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AERONAUTICS WERE MENTIONED) SEEM TO BE THE ONLY JUDICIAL COURSE.

7. CANNAC ADMITTED THAT BARRE'S DOMESTIC MARGIN FOR MANEUVER WILL BE VERY TIGHT. HIS DILEMMA FOR THE NEXT 18 MONTHS WILL BE HOW TO CONTINUE THE AUSTERITY PROGRAM WHILE AT THE SAME TIME CONTINUING THE GOF'S OPENINGS TO OTHER SOCIAL FORCES MENTIONED ABOVE. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ALREADY EXCLUDED THE POSSIBILITY OF OPENING THE FINANCIAL VALVES VERY WIDE. AT THE SAME TIME, BARRE AND MANAGEMENT (THE PATRONAT) WILL HAVE TO MAKE SOME SUBSTANTIAL GESTURES TO THE UNIONS -- PARTICULARLY AFTER CFDT LEADER EDMOND MAIRE'S SHOW OF WILLINGNESS TO TALK WITH THE GOF AND NEGOTIATE WITH MANAGEMENT. THE OPTIONS OF BARRE AND MANAGEMENT BEING LIMITED ON SALARY CONCESSIONS, CANNAC FORESEES NEGOTIATIONS TREATING OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST TO BOTH SIDES: WORKING CONDITIONS, TENURE, SECURITY MEASURES IN THE FACTORIES, NUMBER OF HOURS IN THE WORK WEEK, ETC. SEE PARIS 11705.

8. THE EC CONNECTION: SINCE THE MARCH ELECTIONS AND THE COPENHAGEN SUMMIT, THE EC HAS FIGURED PROMINENTLY IN GISCARD'S THINKING -- BOTH TO ASSIST FRANCE'S IMMEDIATE ECONOMIC REDRESSMENT AND TO ADVANCE TOWARD THE DAY WHEN EUROPE CAN SPEAK WITH A MORE UNIFIED VOICE. GISCARD CAN PLAY A SPECIAL ROLE HERE, CANNAC SAID. HOW MANY EUROPEAN LEADERS CAN CLAIM A RECENT ELECTION VICTORY, A 60 PERCENT POPULARITY AND THE LIKELIHOOD OF SEVERAL MORE YEARS AT THE HELM, HE ASKED RHETORICALLY.

9. US - EC RELATIONS WILL PROBABLY BECOME MORE COMPLEX, HE CONTINUED, CLOSER IN SOME AREAS, MORE DIVERGENT IN OTHERS. EC COOPERATION HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN CONCEIVED

AS ONE WAY FOR FRENCH INDUSTRY TO COMPETE WITH US  
GIANTS. THIS IS NO LONGER THE GENERAL RULE, CANNAC SAID.  
THE SITUATION DIFFERS SO MUCH FROM ONE INDUSTRY TO  
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INT-05 NRC-05 ACDA-12 CEQ-01 NEA-11 /167 W  
-----061367 101703Z /42

R 101414Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1289  
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
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ANOTHER THAT EACH CASE HAS TO BE EXAMINED ON ITS OWN  
MERITS. THUS, FRANCE OPTED FOR US RATHER THAN GERMAN OR  
DUTCH COOPERATION IN COMPUTERS. NOR IS BIGNESS A NECES-  
SARY INDICATION OF EFFICIENCY. MEDIUM-SIZED FRENCH GROUPS  
MAY BE MORE EFFICIENT THAN LARGER MERGERS WITH OTHER EC  
PARTNERS. WHATEVER THE FORM, EUROPEAN INDUSTRY WILL  
HAVE TO BECOME MORE COMPETITIVE WITH THE US, AND THIS



DEVELOPMENT WILL INEVITABLY LEAD TO PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC.

10. CANNAC CHARACTERIZED US-FRENCH RELATIONS AS MUCH IMPROVED OVER THE PRE-GISCARD PERIOD, THOUGH FRANCE HAS HAD TO STAND UP TO THE US TO SUPPORT ITS INTERESTS WHEN  
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THEY WERE INVOLVED: THE PAKISTAN NUCLEAR DEAL, NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLIES FROM THE US AND INTERNATIONAL MONETARY POLICY WERE SOME EXAMPLES. CANNAC INDICATED THAT GISCARD'S VISION OF EUROPE IMPLIES A "CERTAIN DISTANCING" FROM THE US. HE NOTED THAT GERMANY WAS BECOMING MORE VOCIFEROUS TOWARD THE US, AND ON SOME OF THE SAME ISSUES, AND CONSIDERED THIS A HEALTHY TREND. CANNAC AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR GERMAN SELF-CONFIDENCE THAT THE FRG REMAIN CLOSELY TIED TO WESTERN ORGANIZATIONS (THE ALLIANCE, NATO AND THE EC) EVEN WHEN TAKING ISSUE WITH THE US. FRENCH-GERMAN COOPERATION IS OBVIOUSLY THE KEY TO THE FUTURE OF THE EC, CANNAC CONTINUED. GISCARD WAS PLEASED THAT HIS MONETARY INITIATIVE IN COPENHAGEN WAS SUPPORTED BY SCHMIDT AND CALLAGHAN. CANNAC WOULD NOT VENTURE WHICH OTHER AREAS HE FELT WERE RIPE FOR EC COOPERATION. TOO MUCH DEPENDED ON THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION. IF THE EC COULD MOVE AHEAD ON MONETARY UNION, IT WOULD ALREADY BE DOING VERY WELL FOR ITSELF. A UNIFIED VOICE ON FOREIGN POLICY WAS ADMITTEDLY MUCH FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD.

11. COMMENT: THIS LENGTHY OVERVIEW BY A KEY GISCARDIAN INSIDER GIVES A GOOD IDEA OF HOW THE PRESIDENT VIEWS HIS PRESENT DOMESTIC PRIORITIES AND THE DIRECTION OF BASIC TRENDS IN FRENCH SOCIETY. GISCARD'S OPTIC IS MORE PRAGMATIC THAN ANALYTICAL AND LEAVES MUCH VAGUE IN ORDER TO REACT TO FUTURE UNKNOWN. WE WOULD NOT AGREE WITH EVERYTHING THAT CANNAC RECOUNTED. FOR INSTANCE, HE IS MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN WE ARE ON THE FUTURE EVOLUTION OF THE PS AND THE PROSPECTS FOR A STRONG CENTER; BUT GIVEN THE CLEAR FIELD BEFORE GISCARD FOR A YEAR OR TWO AND HIS TIME FRAME OF AT LEAST SEVERAL YEARS FOR IMPLEMENTING HIS GAME PLAN, WE WOULD NOT TAKE ABSOLUTE EXCEPTION  
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TO IT EITHER. WE DO AGREE THAT, WHILE LONG-RANGE PREDICTIONS ARE RISKY, GISCARD HAS THE UPPER HAND WITHIN THE MAJORITY AND IS SEEN AS A FAR STRONGER CANDIDATE

THAN CHIRAC FOR THE 1981 ELECTIONS. AT LEAST FOR THE  
PRESENT, ONE HAS A BETTER IDEA OF WHERE THE PRESIDENT  
WANTS TO GO AND EVEN SOME NOTION OF HOW HE INTENDS TO  
GET THERE.  
HARTMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GISCARDI'S GAMEPLAN OVERVIEW SUMMARY. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ELYSEE, YEVE CANNAC, GAVE US LAST WEEK ONE OF THE MORE COM  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, PEPR, FR, (CANNAC, YEVE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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